

Kingsville Public Library

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October 19, 2017

RE: In the Matter of: Wireline Competition Bureau Seeking Comments on E-rate Category Two)
WC Docket No. 13-184

Dear Federal Communication Commissions,

We are pleased to be able to provide input on the impact of having access to secure and sufficient funding for our library WiFi and internal connections. **Just in the past year, our small, rural library has experienced a 30% increase in wireless sessions per year.**

The Kingsville Public Library has participated in the Guiding Ohio Online grant program for the past three years. The program places technology trainers in rural Ohio libraries to deliver digital literacy training through computer classes, one-on-one computer assistance, outreach, and volunteer recruitment. The vision is for every Ohioan to be able to fully participate in online government, search and apply for jobs online, understand the risks and benefits of internet finance, connect with family online, and protect personal information in the digital age. All of these educational programs are dependent on a strong WiFi signal. Increasingly, our library also provide services that depend on WiFi, like basic computer classes and coding clubs for K12 youth. **WiFi has become a core community service, especially in rural areas like ours where the community does not have access to reliable Internet at home.**

USAC data shows that most libraries are eligible for a 70% discount or less and according to the American Library Association, many libraries stopped bothering to apply for WiFi funding. Some states have reported that none of their libraries have received WiFi funds since the beginning of the E-rate program. In communities across the country, people turn to the library to use our WiFi on their tablets, laptops, and other devices.

With the commitment of the FCC to ensure a library budget of \$2.30 (\$5.00 for a selected category of larger urban and suburban libraries) per square foot, libraries can finally upgrade outdated equipment or plan for new construction. They have confidence that desperately needed support will be there. Please maintain secure funding through the full five year budget period as adopted during the 2014 Modernization. Our communities depend on that funding.

Sincerely,

Mariana Branch, Director